

# The Weather Whisper

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Viewing River Ice from Space
- Staff Spotlight - Meet Dylan and Alexis

## Announcing Severe Weather Awareness Week and 2022 Spotter Training

Kristy Carter, Meteorologist

March 1 is the official start of meteorological spring, which means severe weather season is right around the corner. As the snow melts and temperatures continue to warm, now is the time to review safety plans and [prepare emergency kits](#) so you are ready if disaster strikes. In 2022, [Severe Weather Awareness Week](#) (SWAW) will be March 21-25 in Iowa with the Statewide Tornado Drill on Wednesday March 23 at 10 AM. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) during SWAW 2022 for more information on severe weather awareness and preparedness.

In addition to virtual, in-person [Storm Spotter Training](#) is back! See the schedule on the right for dates and the link above for details and registration (DSM and virtual only). Additional classes may still be added so check back at the link above or our main [website](#) for updates.

**2022**  
NWS DES MOINES  
**IN-PERSON  
STORM SPOTTER  
TRAINING**

7:00PM	Tuesday, March 15th Dallas County - Adel
7:00PM	Wednesday, March 16th Adair/Guthrie Counties - Menlo
6:30PM	Tuesday, March 22nd Polk County - Des Moines
7:00PM	Tuesday, March 29th Poweshiek County - Grinnell
6:00PM	Thursday, March 31st Webster County - Fort Dodge
6:30PM	Monday, April 4th Adams County - Corning
6:30PM	Tuesday, April 5th Hardin County - Eldora
6:00PM	Tuesday, April 12th Union County - Creston
10:00AM	Thursday, April 14th Iowa State University
6:00PM	Monday, April 18th Franklin County - Hampton

More Information:  
<https://go.usa.gov/xsBP8> Des Moines • Iowa

**2022**  
NWS  
Des Moines  
**VIRTUAL STORM  
SPOTTER TRAINING**

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7PM WED, MAR 23

1PM WED, MAR 30

7PM THUR, APR 7

REGISTRATION  
& MORE INFORMATION:  
<https://go.usa.gov/xsBP8>

Des Moines • Iowa

Iowa  
**Severe Weather Awareness Week**  
March 21-25, 2022



# Seeing River Ice From Space

Andrew Ansorge, Lead Meteorologist

Meteorologists use satellite imagery to view where there are clear or cloudy skies, monitor developing thunderstorms, and even track wildfires. Over the last few years, satellite imagery from Landsat8 and NOAA-20 among others has allowed us to view where there is ice on rivers across central Iowa. This is important as cold winter days give way to the milder days of spring, which lead to the ice breaking up and potentially causing ice jams and flooding. In the image below right, river ice on the Iowa River shows up as the white color upstream/left of the Iowa Falls dam. Downstream/right of the dam, the black color is open water. The satellite imagery requires a clear sky and may be available every day or every few days. So in between images, we rely on river gages from the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and the Iowa Flood Center that measure the water level. We also depend on reports and pictures of river ice and ice jams from our partners and the public. Early to mid-March is our typical peak of ice jams, so if you see ice chunks jamming up a river as shown in the graphic below center or flooding from an ice jam, feel free to **send in your report**,

**the location, and a picture if you can safely take one** texting to 515-240-5515 or emailing to [dmx.spotterreport@noaa.gov](mailto:dmx.spotterreport@noaa.gov)

Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey  
Landsat 8 imagery acquired January 12, 2022.  
<https://doi.org/10.5066/P9OGBGM6>



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



## WHAT'S AN ICE JAM?

An ice jam occurs when chunks of ice clump together to block the flow of a river or stream.





In February, NWS Des Moines added two new meteorologists to its ranks. Join us in welcoming Dylan Dodson and Alexis Jimenez.

## Dylan Dodson



"I grew up in a small eastern Iowa town called Camanche which sits right on the Mississippi River. When I graduated high school, I moved out to Ames where I attended college at Iowa State University. After finishing my bachelor's degree I decided to stay at Iowa State to pursue a master's degree as well, both of which were in Meteorology. My master's research was focused primarily on severe weather, specifically bow echo depiction within high resolution convection allowing models. Although severe weather is my favorite meteorological subject, I thoroughly enjoy all aspects of meteorology from winter weather to hydrology! Outside of meteorology, I like to spend my free time outdoors fishing, camping and boating. I also enjoy watching/playing various sports, spending time with friends and playing video games. I am extremely excited to be joining the NWS Des Moines team and serving all of those in central Iowa!"



## Alexis Jimenez

"I grew up near Nashville, Tennessee and earned my B.S. in Meteorology from Iowa State University in 2021. My first experience in research explored the uniqueness of nocturnal tornadoes in the southeast US. I have a wide variety of work experiences including leading environmental activism, promoting recycling, and even driving city buses. I also volunteer for the worship team at my church. Outside of work, I enjoy cycling, music, snuggling with my cats, or spending time with my husband. I'm excited to embark on a dream career at NWS Des Moines!"

On the Cover:

Photo outside NWS Des Moines on February 25, 2022. The snow event from the day before, Thursday February 24, set a new daily maximum snowfall record in Des Moines. The new record of 5.2" broke the old record of 5.1" set in 1975. Photo Credit: NWS Des Moines.



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